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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,549	10/27/2003	Birgit Burg	H 5138 PCT/US	2417

55495 7590 09/27/2006

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EXAMINER

OGDEN JR, NECHOLUS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,549

Applicant(s)

BURG ET AL.

Examiner

Necholus Ogden

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al (6,548,473).

Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al disclose a multi-layer detergent tablet having both a compressed and non-compressed portion comprising, in the non-compressed portion of said multi-layered tablet, at least 0.01% of a surfactant (col. 14, lines 54061) and in particular anionic surfactants such as linear alkyl benzene sulfonate (col. 21, lines 32-42). Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al further disclose the inclusion of builders in an amount from 10-80% by weight (co. 27, lines 41-50) and the at least one non-compressed portion of the detergent tablet is equal to or less than the compressed mold portion of the tablet (col. 51, lines 11-25).

Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al do not specifically teach that said phase is a viscoelastic phase having storage modulus of between 40,000 and 800,000 Pa and a phase shift in the range of 0 to 30 degrees Celsius.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to expect the compositions of Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al to comprise a storage modulus or phase shift as claimed in the non-compressed layer because Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al teaches the use of alkyl benzene sulfonates as surfactants that may be used in the non-compressed phase of the tablet composition and the skilled artisan would expect similar properties, in the absence a showing to the contrary. Furthermore, the court held "it is not necessary in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness . . . that there be a suggestion or expectation from the prior art that the claimed [invention] will have the same or a similar

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utility as one newly discovered by applicant,” and concluded that here a prima facie case was established because “[t]he art provided the motivation to make the claimed compositions in the expectation that they would have similar properties.” In re Dillon, 919 F.2d 693, 16 USPQ2d 1901 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 7-10-2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Thoen et al do not teach or suggest a three-layered tablet with a viscoelastic phase placed between the two-tablet layers.

The examiner contends and respectfully disagrees because Thoen et al specifically teach that said detergent composition is in the form of a multilayered tablet (column 14). Thoen et al specifically discloses that said tablet is prepared by having a compressed portion in a plurality of molds. The plurality of molds is filled with a non-compressed, non-encapsulating portion (col. 52, lines 47-54) using a modified tablet press comprising modified upper and lower punches. The upper and lower punches of the modified tablet press are modified such that the compressed portion provides one or more indentations, which form the molds to which the one non-compressed portion is delivered (col. 51, lines 54-55). Therefore, it can be seen that Thoen et al teaches that said multi-layered tablet is formed with at least three layers and said layers comprise compressed layers and a non-compressed layers. Accordingly, the claims are suggested by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

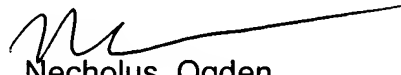
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Necholas Ogden whose telephone number is 571-272-1322. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T, Th-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas McGinty can be reached on 571-272-1029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Necholus Ogden
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751

No
9-23-2006